

## *Vietsenia scaposa* C. Hansen, a new species of the *Melastomataceae* for Vietnam

C. HANSEN

**Summary :** *Vietsenia scaposa* C. Hansen is described as the fourth species in the genus *Vietsenia*. A few details of its flower and fruit and its distribution are illustrated. A key to the four species is presented.

**Résumé :** Description de la quatrième espèce du genre *Vietsenia* : *V. scaposa* C. Hansen. Des détails de la fleur et du fruit et l'aire de l'espèce sont figurés. Une clé des quatre espèces est présentée.

Carlo Hansen, The Botanical Museum, Gothersgade 130, DK-1123 Copenhagen, Denmark.

*Vietsenia scaposa* is represented by four collections, one sterile and three in fruit, among which *Poilane* 28987 has an inflorescence with very young buds in addition. The specimens are referred to *Vietsenia* on the basis of their two ventral filiform staminal appendages (Fig. 1, D) and their inflorescence. In the inflorescence the peduncle ends in a node with a number of short scorpioid branchlets and sometimes has a node below terminal one with opposite lateral branches ending as main one, but more often the branches there are abortive or not developed at all, so that only the node is there.

The two staminal appendages of *V. scaposa* are considerably shorter than allowed for *Vietsenia* in the diagnosis (HANSEN, 1984), but so far they are known only in young buds and they may be longer in relation to the anther during anthesis. In a young bud of *V. poilanei* (third before flower on scorpioid branchlet in *Poilane* 29399) the appendages are in fact only two third the length of the anther, while in flowers they equal it.

### KEY TO THE SPECIES OF VIETSENIA

1. Stem with 0.3-0.5 mm long strictly patent gland-tipped hairs; inflorescence lax and branchlets not conspicuously scorpioid ..... *V. laxiflora*
- 1'. Stem with appressed minute brown glandular hairs; branchlets conspicuously scorpioid.
  2. Leaf apex acuminate; leaves above with scattered ca. 1 mm long wavy gland-tipped hairs in addition to minute glandular hairs ..... *V. poilanei*
  - 2'. Leaf apex very broadly acuminate to rounded to retuse; leaves above with a few stout very short bristles or with only minute glandular hairs.
    3. Stem and petioles distinctly ribbed to winged ..... *V. scaposa*
    - 3'. Stem and petioles at most angular ..... *V. rotundifolia*



**Vietsenia scaposa** C. Hansen, *sp. nov.*

*Vietseniis laxiflorae et poilanei affinis, sed differt absentia pilorum glanduliferorum in superficie foliorum et praesentia ramorum lateralium non nisi in nodis terminalibus vel interdum in duobus nodis terminalibus inflorescentiae. A Vietsenia rotundifolia autem distincta petiolis 5-costatis et fructibus majoribus, quadrangularibus.*

TYPE : *Poilane 28987*, Ba-na près Tourane (holo-, P).

Herb, usually subacaulescent, scapose, 10-25 cm high, clothed all over with minute brown glands and only on leaves with short bristles in addition. Stem angular with 4-6 ribs or low wings, with roots developing along most of its length, short (to 5 cm long), thick, knotty from nodes and leaf scars, with internodes usually less than 5 mm long, or rarely long (to 13 cm long, slender, with internodes 2.5-4 cm long). Leaves opposite, decussate, isomorphic and equal to subequal in a pair; petioles 2-3.5 cm long, with five low wings, one on each side of sulcus and three below (decurrent nerves); blade broad, ovate to elliptic or rarely obovate, 5-7.5 × 3.6-5.3 cm; base cordate, apex very broadly acuminate to rounded or retuse, margin subdentate, ciliate with very stout forward bending short bristles; 3-nerved with 1 or 2 pairs of fainter outer nerves in addition, at least basally; upper surface with rows of yellowish irregular spots along three main nerves, a few bristles like marginal ones may occur.

Inflorescence terminal, 8-13.5 cm long, composed of a peduncle and, at its terminal node, a cluster of 3-5 branches soon becoming densely scorpioid or soon forking and then becoming scorpioid, ca. 1 cm long in fruit, and sometimes, at a node about 1 cm below terminal one, with additionally two lateral branches, each ca. 1 cm long and ending in scorpioid branches as main axis; peduncle 5.5-11.5 cm long, usually longer than the leaves; bracts triangular, up to 0.4 mm long; pedicel 3-7 mm in fruit. Flowers (observations from young bud unless otherwise stated) 4-merous, actinomorphic, bisexual. Sepals wide and low (observed in fruit). Petals unknown. Stamens 8, isomorphic, equal; inappendiculate dorsally, ventral appendages two, filiform, one third as long as anther. Ovary 4-merous, adnate to hypanthium for most of its length, anther pockets shallow impressions, crown absent, top of ovary rounded, 4-humpy, glabrous; placentas protruding into locules on very narrow stalks (observed in fruit). Style glabrous.

Fruit cup-shaped, 8-ribbed, ca. 3.5 × 3.5 mm, old fruit ca. 4 × 4 mm, valves not accrescent. Seeds short and widely obovate, slightly angular, tuberculate, with a large wide inflated beak, ca. 0.7 mm long, testa light brown, beak pale brown, strophiole large, dark brown.

Very young buds in February, mature fruits in June and July.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT : Vietnam (Fig. 1). Poor soil on granite at 1000-1400 m altitude.

SPECIMENS STUDIED : *Clemens 3316*, Annam, Mt Bana; *Poilane 1514*, Annam, Bana; *Poilane 28987*, Ba-na près Tourane; *Poilane 31679*, Annam, confins de la prov. du Quang Nam entre les villages Moï de « Gò O et Mò O ».

NOTES : *V. scaposa* differs from *V. laxiflora* and *V. poilanei*, in addition to what is given in the diagnosis, in its subacaulescent and scapose appearance, but may be close to *V.*



*rotundifolia*, which is known only from the fragmentary type specimen, in that habit. Besides, the leaves of these two species are very similar. The species differ, however, in the fruit which in *V. scaposa* is quadrangular, cup-shaped, 8-ribbed, and  $3.5 \times 3.5$  mm, and in *V. rotundifolia* subquadrangular with much rounded angles, urceolate (almost spheroidal), not ribbed, and  $2 \times 3.2$  mm. The two species also differ in the stem and petioles, which are distinctly ribbed or winged in *V. scaposa* and at most angular in *V. rotundifolia*.

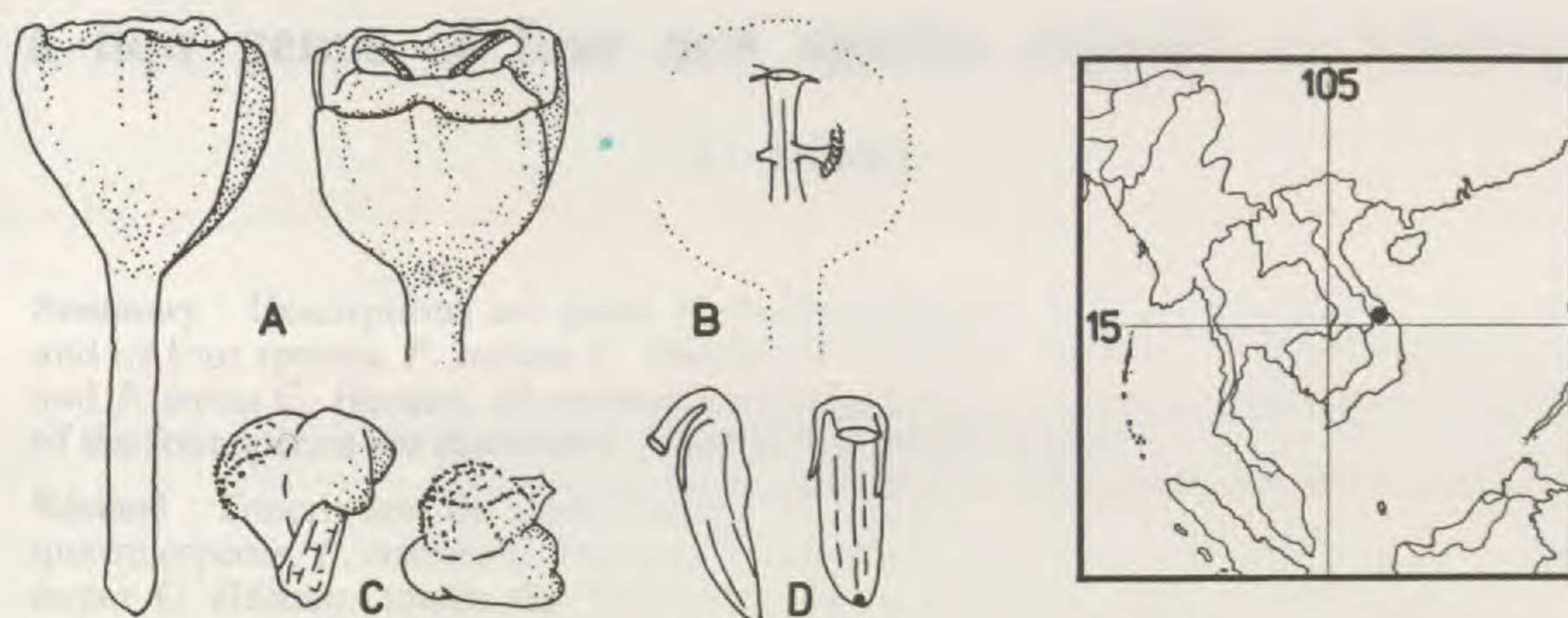


Fig. 1. — *Vietsenia scaposa* C. Hansen : **A**, fruits seen laterally, left one slightly from above, ca.  $\times 5$ ; **B**, central part of fruit with a stalked placenta protruding, ca.  $\times 5$ ; **C**, seeds, one seen laterally, the other obliquely from above, ca.  $\times 20$ ; **D**, stamens from young bud, one seen laterally, the other ventrally, ca.  $\times 12.5$ . (**A**, **B**, **C**, from *Poilane 1514*; **D**, from *Poilane 28987*). On the right, total distribution.

When the fruit develops the distal tubular part of the hypanthium does not widen concurrently with the basal part and the enclosed capsule, and therefore becomes bent over the top of the capsule, before it perishes (Fig. 1, *A*). The basal part of the hypanthium (and to some extent the pedicel) swells and remains as an empty cup in the final stages of the fruit (HANSEN, 1985). The valves get tougher and slightly thicker, but the wide rounded furrow between their two halves remains.

Specimens may be referred to *V. scaposa* solely on the basis of the rows of irregular yellowish spots, one row close on each side of the midrib and indistinctly of the next pair of longitudinal ribs. In the available material they lack in *Poilane 31679*. Such spots occur sporadically elsewhere in the *Sonerileae*, though they usually are more regular and differently arranged.

#### REFERENCES

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